

# A COLBY<sup>®</sup> BOOK

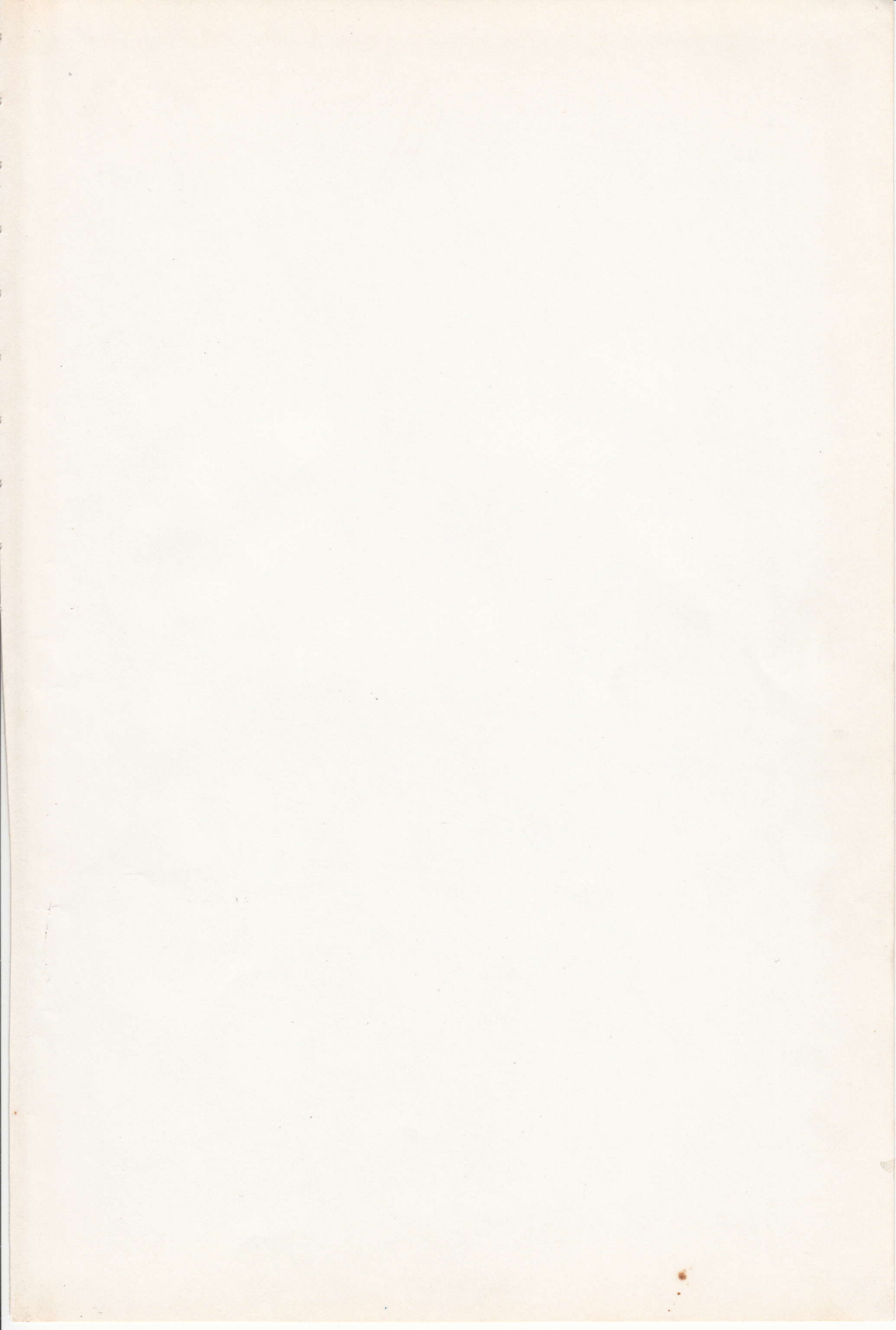
ABOUT

## HIDDEN TREASURE



# C. B. COLBY











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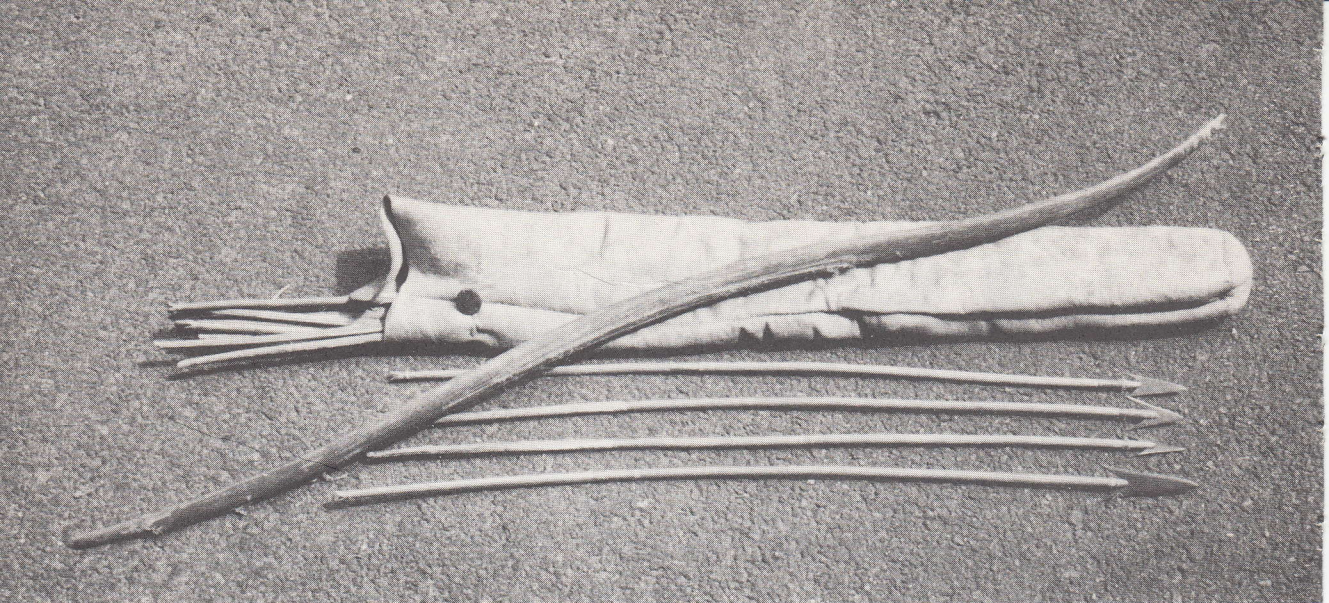
What, Where and How to Find It



by C. B. COLBY

Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc. New York





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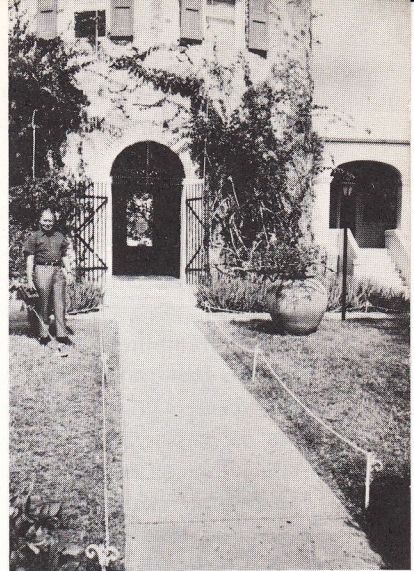
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# Treasure for the Finding



Just the two words "hidden" and "treasure," combined as Hidden Treasure, are enough to stir the pulse and imagination of anyone. Visions of Spanish galleons, treasure chests, secret hiding places, old mysterious maps, bags of jewels, lost mines, and sliding panels with family fortunes behind them, appear in delightful array. The exciting part of it is that there is hidden treasure to be found in almost every corner of the globe.

It has been conservatively estimated that there are many times more treasure, buried, sunken, and hidden about the globe, than all the known wealth of the world's nations combined. Almost one-quarter of all the moneys of the world since coins were invented is estimated to be under the surface of the sea or soil or hidden away in forgotten nooks and crannies just waiting for some lucky treasure hunter to find them. Much of it can still be found if you know where to look, have imagination and patience and perhaps one of the modern magic wands, the "metal detector." Hidden treasure can be as far away as you want to seek it or as close as your local playground, your own backyard, or even, if your home is old, right in your own walls, floors, or ceilings.

Hunting for hidden treasure can be an exciting and even profitable hobby. Some people make it their profession, and even those without a metal detector can find things if they know where to look and are lucky. Treasure can be many things: a few lost coins found in a park or under a grandstand at a country fairground, a rusty sword found on an old barn's beam, a bracelet kicked out of a sandy beach, or an old Colt revolver found behind the

bar in a ghost town's saloon. It even *could* be a pirate hoard found on a lonely beach. All of these and countless more treasures, both large and small, have been found by professionals and rank amateurs.

You too could be one of the lucky ones, for many hidden treasures have been stumbled upon by young treasure hunters with curiosity, imagination, and a large helping of luck. This book is designed as an introduction to the fun and possible excitement of looking for what has been lost, hidden and forgotten, or deliberately concealed and never retrieved for any of a thousand reasons.

My own first "find" was discovered about fifty years ago in New Hampshire. My parents were visiting an old friend who lived on a farm, and I spent the time they were talking exploring the old barn behind the house. Up in the hayloft I began putting my hand down between the flooring of the loft and the vertical timbers of the walls to see what I could find.

Suddenly I felt something mysterious tucked down between the boards and beams, and with a thumping heart I pulled it up and out into the dim light of the hayloft. It was a dusty old buffalo skin quiver containing a sinew-covered bow and a dozen turkey-feathered arrows, several with hand-forged steel heads, a real hidden treasure! How long it had been hidden there and by whom no one ever knew, least of all the old lady who had lived there for nearly a century herself. This wonderfully understanding friend of my parents gave me this treasure to keep as you can see at the top of the opposite page.



Several years later my curiosity paid off again, this time with an old unloaded revolver found tucked away on a rafter in a summer house. This too I added to my collection of treasure trove. Later on my interest and concern with hidden treasure took a more serious turn.

In 1925 and 1926, I was working as a member of the U.S. Customs Service in Puerto Rico, during the days of Prohibition. I was a sailor on the "538," a fifty-two-foot patrol boat engaged in trying to track down rumrunners in the waters around Puerto Rico. Part of our patrols took us to Mona Island, forty miles west of Puerto Rico, where the "rummies" hid their merchandise in the many caves that honeycombed the island cliffs. There too, centuries ago, pirates also hid their treasure, still there for the finding if you know where to look. We found plenty of the bottled "hidden treasure" but none of the pirates' hoards, although we must have been close. Someday I'm going back for a real search.

Also while in the Virgin Islands, I paid a visit to St. Thomas Island, to the east of Puerto Rico, to see the legendary ruins of Bluebeard's Castle high on a hill above Charlotte Amalie. Standing gaunt and silent against the sky, this old ruined tower fairly reeked with legends of murdered wives, poisoned guests, buried treasure, and buccaneer secrets. I could almost hear the clash of cutlass and rapier and smell the pungent black powder smoke of cannon and flintlock pistol. The photo left at top of Page 3 is one I took the day I visited the "castle" a half century ago.

I revisited this legendary site a few months ago and found that it had indeed contained hidden treasure, for now it is the trademark and central landmark of Bluebeard's Castle Hotel, a world-famous resort managed by my old friend Milan Glumidge and his wife, Aliki. The photo on the right, also on Page 3, shows the author before the restored tower as it looks today, sweeping the grounds with his metal detector for Spanish gold or perhaps a tarnished penny or two.

Not all hidden treasure is Spanish gold or pirate's loot, and not all of it by any means is on distant islands. Some of it may be within walking distance of your home or even in it. Many homeowners were suspicious of banks and hid their valuables and cash about their own property. In this way they could add to it or check upon it from time to time. Unfortunately many did not live to use it or return to its hiding place, and as it had been hidden in a secret place known only to them, it was never recovered. It could be there still.

Much ingenuity was used by these old-timers to construct their secret hiding places for treasure. They designed double bottom or ended drawers in tables and desks, hollowed-out table and chair legs, and hollow stair treads. They designed secret sliding panels to be opened by natural-looking "knots" in the wood or turnable ornaments on walls, fireplaces, and stairways. Even today some modern houses (like my own) have secret sliding panels just for the fun of it.

Early pioneers and settlers used to bury their few gold pieces in the ground in metal tea cans, crockery "money jars" (see Page 9), and "posthole banks." The latter were literally postholes along a fence. The post was removed, the hole dug deeper, and a jar of money or other valuables dropped in before the post was replaced. These holes were never deeper than a man's arm could reach, and the post over it was generally marked with a secret sign, a horseshoe, notches, or other signs known only to the owner. Often the owner did not live to reclaim his treasure, and it is still there, buried under a rotting bit of fence post. Look for signs cut into posts, posts that are strangely shorter or taller or unattached to the wire that should be stapled to it. These could be a clue.

Old-timers hid their valuables up under the eaves, on top of beams in dark corners often guarded by spiders or hornets' nests. Never explore such places with your bare hands; test first with a stick for any unpleasant residents that might be there.

Others hid their treasure trove in basement walls or the dirt floors of house cellars, in outbuildings of all kinds, in stone walls, and under hearthstones. (I have visited one house in New Hampshire where there is even supposed to be a pirate buried under one such giant granite hearthstone.) Look for signs of cracks about a stone or signs of greasy handprints along a stone's edges or stones that seem to fit loosely or appear "different" from the others. Tapping gently with a hammer may reveal a hollow sound worth investigating further. Use all your senses as well as your imagination when looking for signs of hidden treasure. Where would you have hidden it?

If you live or travel near old forts, stagecoach stops, or wagon train trails or near the foundations of old inns or taverns, you may be closer to treasure than you think. However, if any of these are on federally controlled or owned lands, you will have to look elsewhere, for such exploration is forbidden on such property or sites.



Newspapers, town histories, diaries, and personal stories of older residents often point to an interesting place to look, and one of the greatest aids to a treasure hunter is the modern version of the World War II mine detector, now known as the metal detector. That heavy and often balky device of WW II was developed to detect deadly mines planted underground by a retreating enemy or to guard his installations. It sent an electronic impulse down into the earth from a coil in the instrument's head. When that impulse encountered anything of metal, it was recorded either by a change in tone that the operator could hear or by the movement of a dial's needle that he could see, sometimes both. The modern metal detector still uses a similar system, but it has been refined and greatly improved. They can be purchased at prices from under \$25 up to several hundred dollars depending upon make, model, and quality.

Even the most inexpensive one will respond to metal objects such as coins under the sod, and the better models will pinpoint larger objects buried several feet. Thousands of exciting finds have been made with these instruments, some of which can be bought in kit form and assembled with simple tools and with some electrical and mechanical skill on the part of the builder. For example, a woman in Arkansas located a fruit jar by its metal top at a depth of three feet. It contained the deed to her father's land section in Nebraska, silver dollars, and some old war bonds. The find was worth \$87,000. Another searcher with a similar detector found eighteen one-gallon cans full of coins buried in the basement of an old abandoned house. These searchers used a White's Goldmaster 66T instrument.

A man using a similar instrument found a single lead bullet. What made it extraordinary was that when he dug for the bullet, he found the skeleton of the unknown man that it had killed years ago. In an even more exciting case a searcher dug down to reach his "target" and found a suit of armor with a skeleton inside it. These instruments can also detect minerals (as well as metal objects) for searching out mother lodes, nuggets, and ore veins when prospecting. All across our great land there are places to look and "sweep" with your detector if you have one, both in the country and in the cities. There is a persistent story about the huge treasure buried by a bootlegger along the banks of one of my favorite trout streams. The next time I go trout fishing my detector goes along too.

A Minnesota man found over \$19,000 in an old

suitcase covered with crumbling leaves and sticks. It turned out to be loot from a bank robbery and was returned to the grateful owners in exchange for a reward. Hundreds of similar cases are reported every week, and many, many more go unreported. Most finds are buried just below the surface of the ground, often but an inch or so. Coins generally sink but an inch a year until they are about five inches under the soil where they come to rest, and only then after several years. I have dug up coins in my own backyard dated thirty years before, and they were but about two inches under the sod. It all depends upon the weather, type of soil, and weight of coin.

Any place where people congregate and handle money can be productive. A bus stop, playground ice-cream stand, under a bleacher grandstand, sidelines of a football field, under a beach boardwalk, a bathing beach, or a circus midway are all prime spots for a metal detector. In this book you will find many more places to look for small treasures of all kinds, whether or not you have a metal detector or not. All you really need is imagination, keen senses, and an idea of where to look.

I am sorry that I am unable to cover every phase of this fascinating subject of hidden treasure and have to limit it to dry-land treasure hunting instead of sunken treasure. Perhaps that will be covered in a future Colby Book.

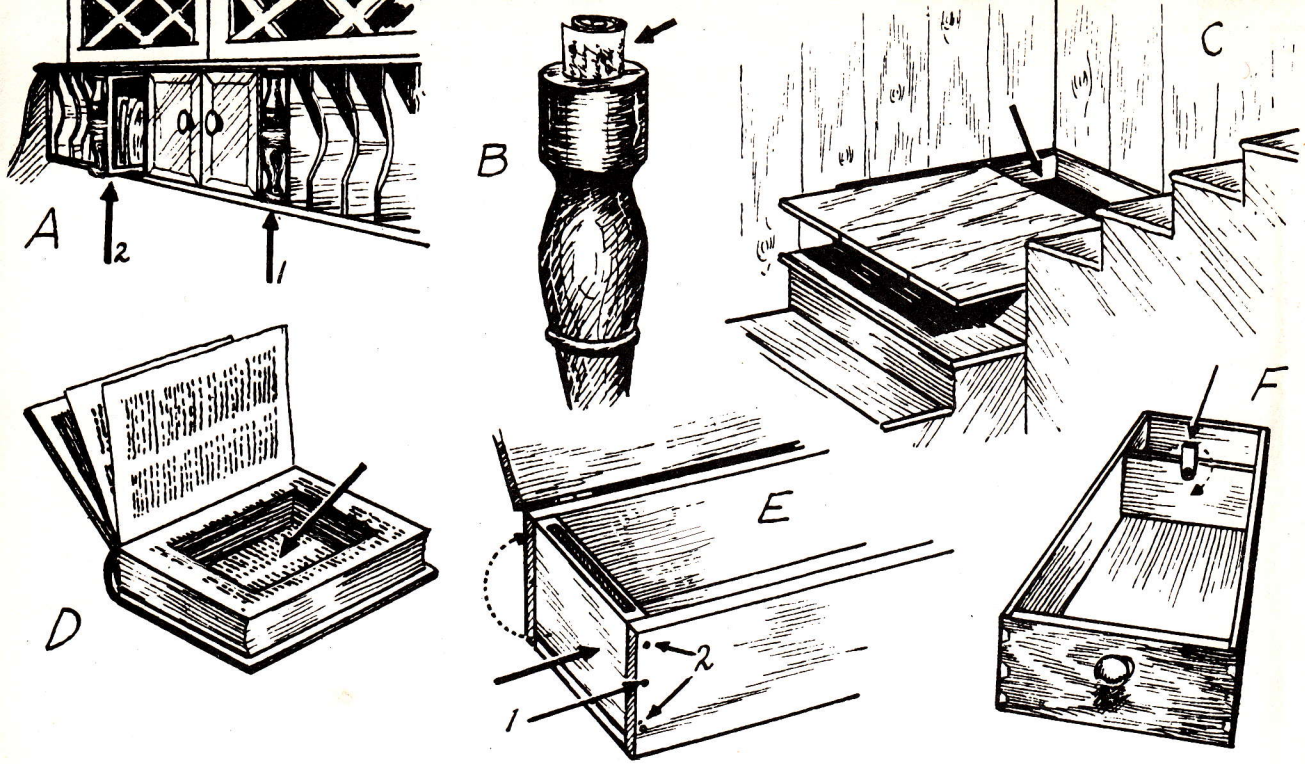
My sincere appreciation to all the manufacturers of metal detectors who replied to my requests for photos and information and to those other "coin shooters" who exchanged tips with me. Particular thanks to Mr. Kenneth G. White, president of White's Electronics, Inc. of Sweet Home, Oregon, who was most helpful in supplying me with so many of the photos for this book and for the pleasure I have had with one of his fine Coinmaster IV detectors over many years. My adventures with this "magic wand" was what finally sparked the idea of doing this book, *Hidden Treasure*.

May you have as much fun reading it as I had fun in doing the research for it in many intriguing places. If this starts you off on the hobby of "coin shooting" and treasure hunting, I'll be delighted, and so will you, even if you never discover that lost pirate hoard of treasure that we both know is out there still waiting to be found!

C. B. COLBY



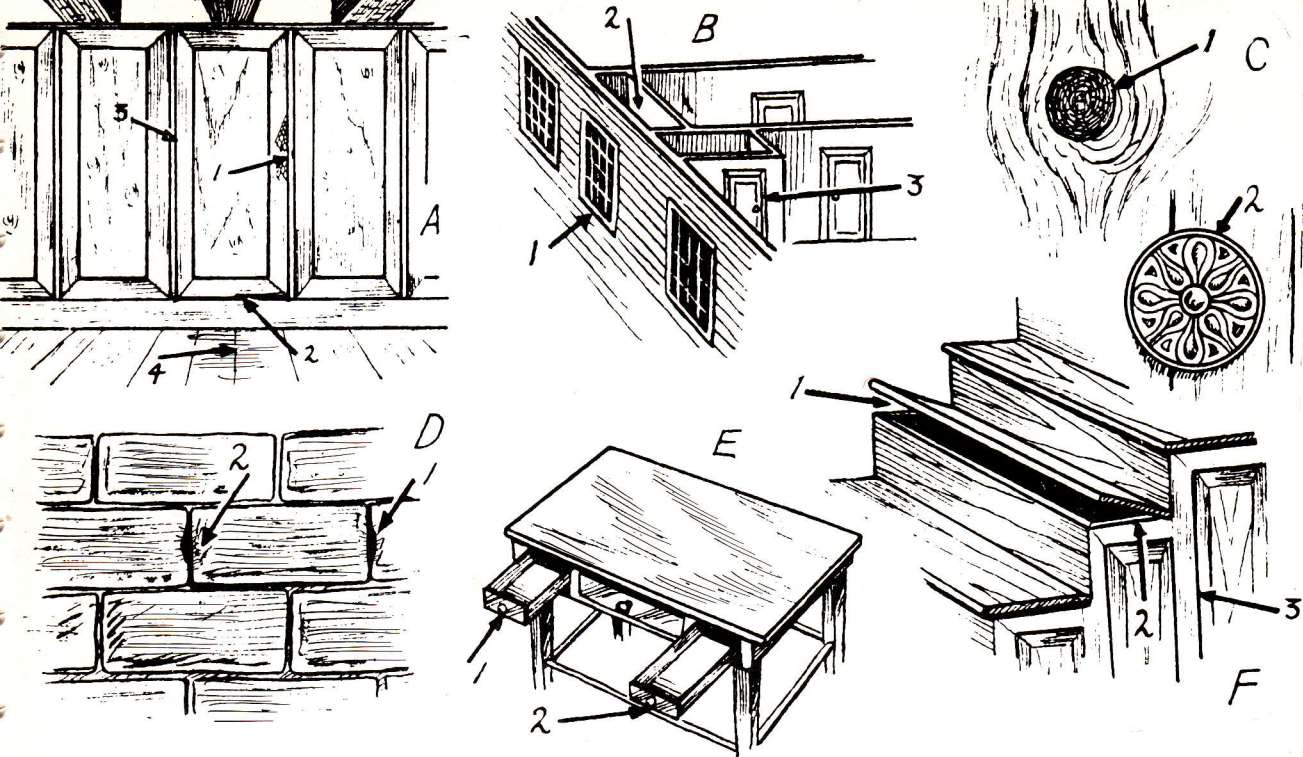




## Secret Hiding Places for Treasure

Many an old-timer was suspicious of banks and preferred to have his valuables where he could literally put his hands upon them whenever he wanted to. As a result, he built or altered many household objects or parts of his house to contain secret hiding places. At A (1 and 2) are shown ornamental sections of a desk that might pull out to hold money and small valuables. At B you see how a table leg could be hollowed out to hold a treasure map, a will, or other important papers or jewels. Sketch C shows how a stairway landing could slide out to conceal a hidden "safe" or even another stairway to a secret room. Many a homeowner hollowed out old books to hold treasure as sketched at D, and in sketch E we see a clever end section that revolves on nail 1 to show small secret space inside of it. Nails 2 are fake and do not hold the end in place. The end piece is shown revolved to reveal the opening of a hideaway. Sketch F shows a secret compartment in the rear of the drawer. The arrow shows a peg that can be turned so the drawer can be pulled all the way out to reach the compartment. With peg up, the drawer can be pulled only partway out, concealing the hidden section. Look for similar hiding places in old furniture, books, and homes.





## Clues to Hidden Hiding Places

Sharp eyes and knowing what to look for will often reveal a secret hiding place in old houses. Here are a few clues that could lead you to hidden treasure. In Sketch A we see a hidden panel in a wall revealed by (1) soiled areas on one side, (2) wide cracks at bottom or top, (3) signs of a hidden latch or hinges, and (4) unusual wear on a floor. Sketch B shows a small room (2) at end of a hall revealed by a window (1) not visible from hall as it should be. The secret room is entered from the closet (3). Sketch C shows how knots in wood paneling or decorations can be possible clues to secret places. See if they are stained, movable, or turnable. Look for cracks around stones or bricks Sketch D that might indicate a loose one concealing a secret hiding place for treasure. See if drawers pull out equally in Sketch E. If not, check for hidden compartment as shown in F on opposite page. Finally keep an eye out for a stair tread that can be lifted or moved as in sketch F. Be alert for similar types of clues in barns, attics, basements, and outbuildings of all kinds.

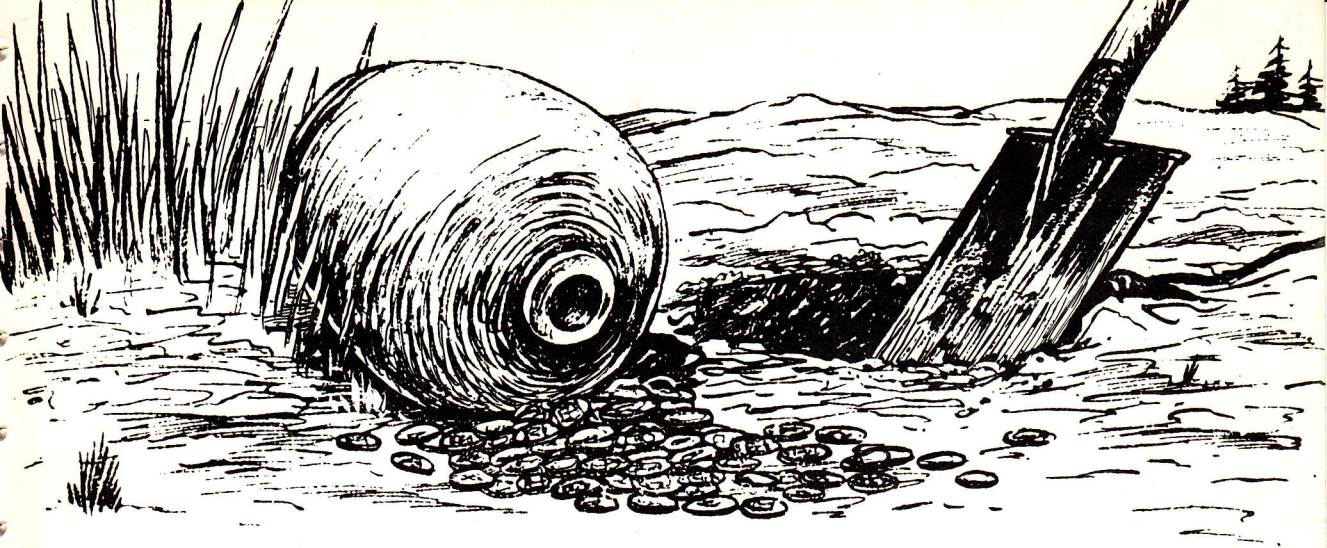




## Pirate Signposts to Treasure

In the days of the buccaneers, they used various signs on landmarks, maps, and local objects to mark their buried or hidden loot. While many used personal signs, many of them used similar marks for similar meanings. Here are sketched a few that were most commonly used. A shows a cutlass or another edged weapon used to indicate direction. B and C are crosses where the long arm was used to indicate direction. D and E, known as "mule shoes," also pointed with their curved end as did "snakes," F and G. The sun H, meant treasure was very close or below this mark. I represented shoring in a mine shaft and the black signs, J, indicated caves or tunnels. K meant treasure was in the center of the three points. G stood for gold. L meant treasure right below. Turtle, M, or skull meant danger. N meant river or stream to be crossed. O, coiled snake, meant treasure below spot. P indicated direction by extended side. Chests or bags were indicated by Q and R, and S indicated treasure down steps. T, U, and V were arrows pointing to next sign or treasure itself if pointing down. Note the signs on tree and boulder indicating a chest buried below the long arm of the cross cut into stone. Keep a sharp eye out for them all!

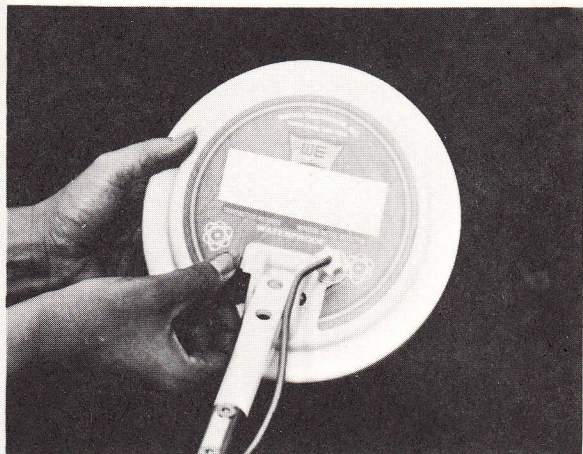
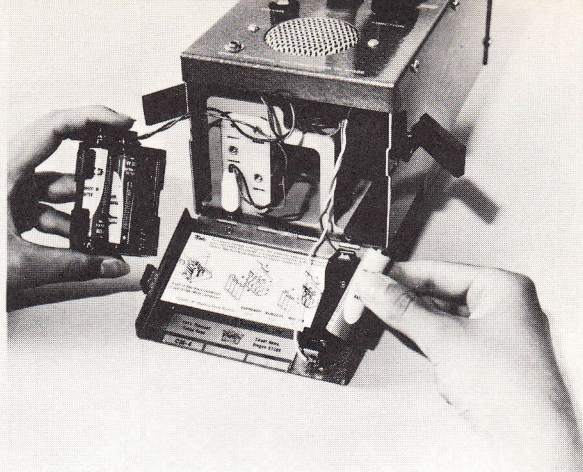
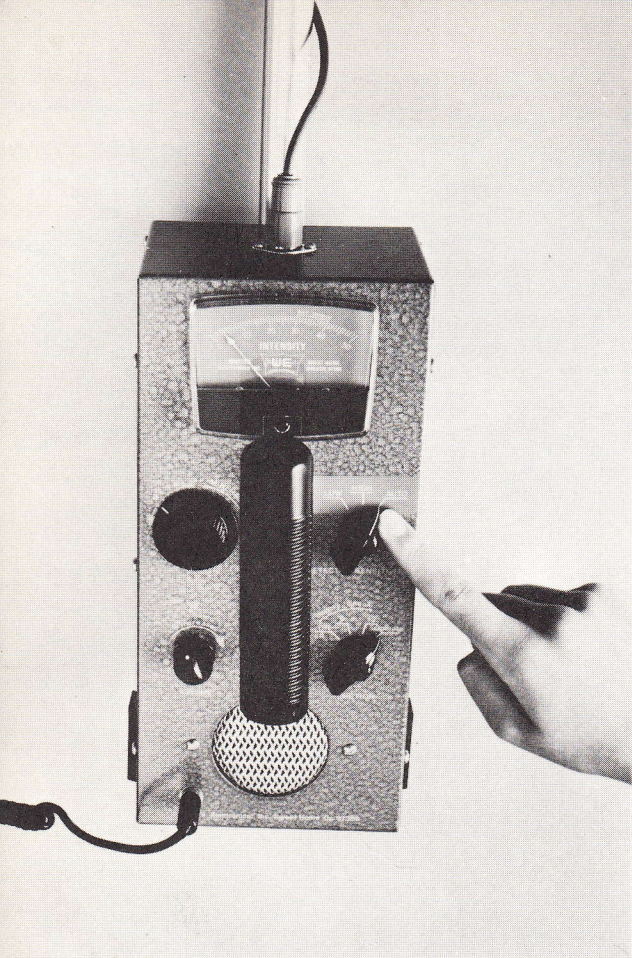




## ***Look for Buried "Money Jars"***

It would be wonderful if you could go out into your own backyard and dig up a fortune. It has been done. Back in 1869 a man living near Newburgh, New York, was digging when he found what he thought was a gray rock just below the surface of the ground. He dug deeper and found it was a "money jar" full of 650 Spanish "pieces of eight" worth at that time one dollar each. Today the hoard would be worth over ten times that. The dates on the coins ranged from 1621 to 1779, so when dug up, they had been there nearly 100 years waiting to be found. Money jars were made of rough gray-brown clay to look like rocks, filled with money or other small valuables and then buried so that only a small part of them was exposed for relocation when desired. Over the years that particular money jar had become covered. The original owner either died before he looked for it or before he could find it. My sketch shows what this money jar looks like today on display in the Newburgh Museum. Keep an eye out for gray-brown "rocks" partially buried near old houses, foundations, or settlements along cattle trails or historical roads.





## ***Metal Detectors Make It Easier***

One of the greatest aids to treasure hunting on land is the metal detector, a modern electronic device that "sees" buried metal objects in the earth. It works by sending an electrical impulse into the ground, which is changed by making contact with a metallic object. This change can be a variation in a steady tone, a beep, or other audible indication that something is below the surface. This interruption can also be shown by the movement of a needle on a dial. By listening and watching and by experience, an operator can tell much about the size and shape of that buried or hidden object. There are many excellent detectors on the market, and most of them operate upon the same basic principle. Above is shown the details of a typical high-quality model, the Coinmaster IV-4B Series II made by White's Electronics, Inc., of Sweet Home, Oregon. The left photo shows various controls for sound volume, sensitivity, battery check, and setting for metal or mineral. The upper right photo shows the interior with a built-in battery tester and battery pack of small batteries. The lower photo shows waterproof "head" that contains signal-sending coil. The opposite page shows the unit in use. It is more efficient when used with a stereo headset as shown. These are especially valuable when traffic or surf noises are high.









## ***Year-round Treasure Hunting***

One of the nice things about using any type of metal detector is that they can "see" through snow as well as sand, concrete, stone, plaster, brick, mud, or ice. As shown above, they can locate rings and car keys lost in the snow as well as a wide variety of objects buried in the sands of the nation's beaches. The model shown above is White's "Beachcomber" and (opposite) their more elaborate "Gold Master" W66TR. Walking along any popular beach with a detector is bound to result in a variety of finds. Most of them will be metal drinking can pull tabs, tinfoil gum wrappers and cigarette packages, or such things as empty sunburn cream tubes and bottle caps, but sooner or later your signal will mean something better. It may be a coin, ring, bracelet, child's metal toy, wristwatch, or even a relic from the past. Detectors can be tricky, and only experience will teach you how to use them best, but you will pick up a lot of know-how along with your "trophy." You will soon be able to use the detector like a real "pro," and know that a small ball of metal foil may fail to trigger it, while that same ball unfolded and spread out will sound like a chest of pirate gold. Learning how to use your instrument will be half the fun.





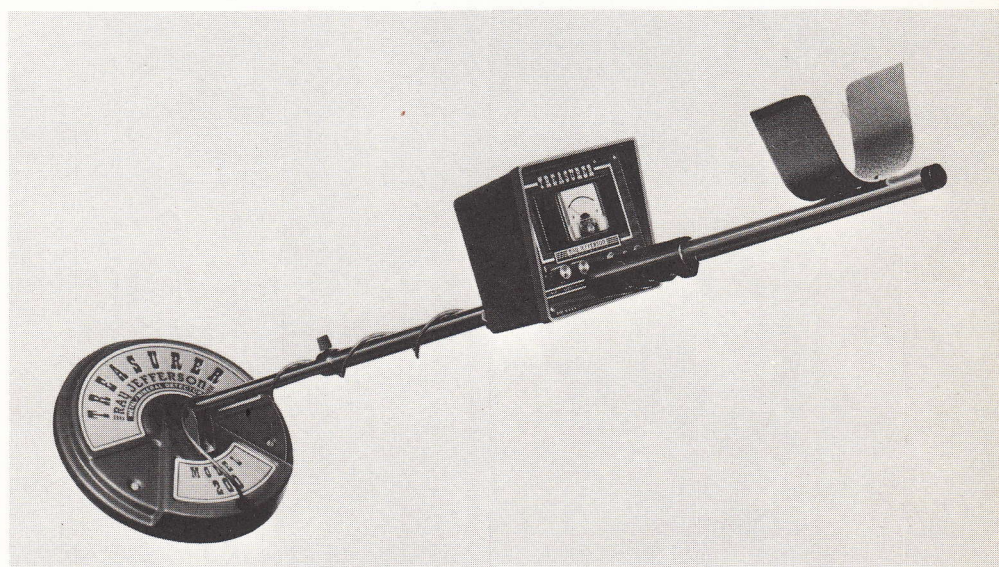
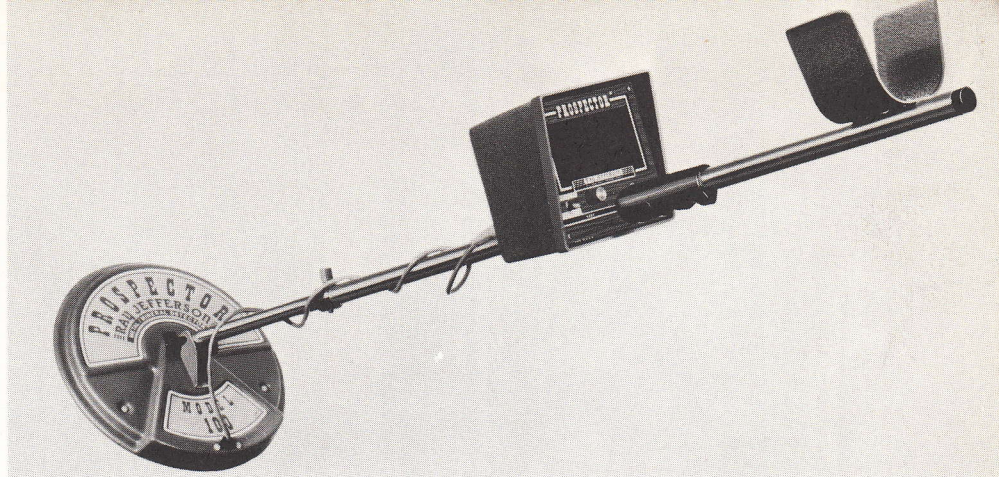




## Build Your Own!

Some metal detectors can be bought in kit form, the same as radios, stereo sound systems, and other electronic equipment. Here are two Heathkit detectors that come as kits for the young scientist and hidden treasure hunter to assemble himself. All parts are there, and all you need is patience, a few simple tools, and the ability to read electrical circuit plans and assembly directions. Above (left) is the Heathkit model GD-348 and (right) their GD-48. These are both proved designs and have been used with great success by many a young "coin shooter." Many a young man has set up quite a flourishing one-man business charging a small fee for finding lost car keys, rings, and other small metal objects lost by his friends or adults in his neighborhood or at sporting events. Perhaps a boys' club could assemble one as a project and then use it for "good turns" or to raise funds for a club treasury.

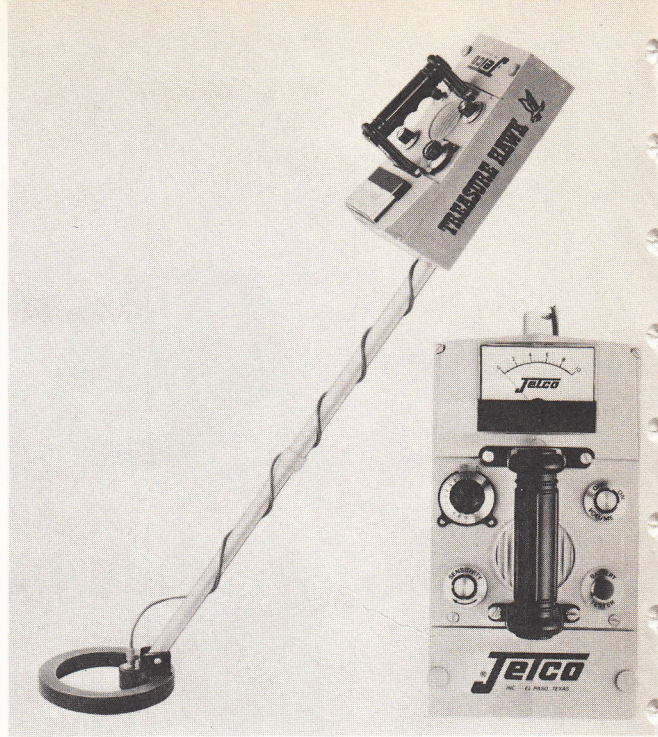
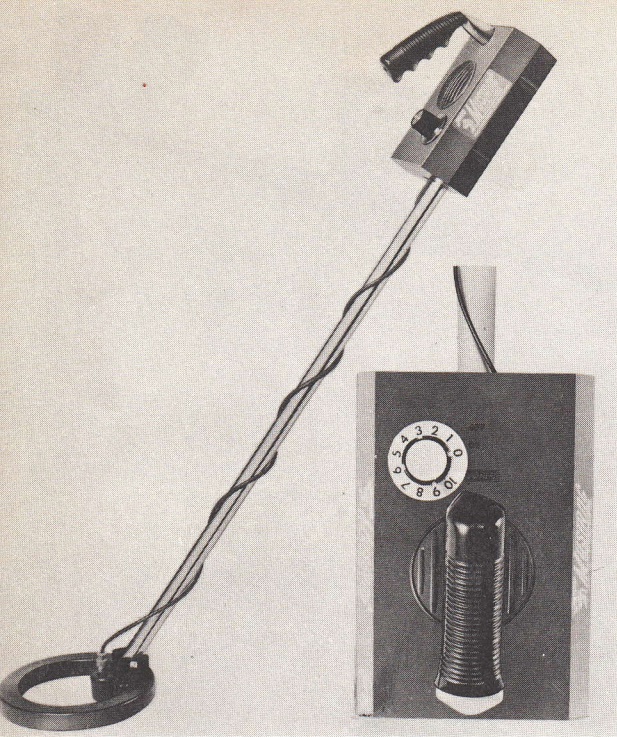




## **"Armrest" Detectors**

Some detectors are provided with armrests so that the entire unit is almost like an extension of your own forearm. These detectors are (top) the model 100 "Prospector" and (lower) the model 200 "Treasurer" developed by Ray Jefferson, already famous for his marine instruments and his citizen band radios. The model 100 is equipped with a "head" containing two coils, a five-inch coil and a nine-inch coil. The smaller coil is ideal for coin shooting and for small objects, while the larger coil is used for larger and deeper objects. The batteries used to power most metal detectors are either the small nine-volt radio batteries or clusters of the smaller penlight type batteries. My White's Electronic Coinmaster IV uses two battery packs containing a total of fourteen of these small batteries. A few hours' sweeping with a detector will often provide enough coins to keep you more than supplied with batteries as you need them.

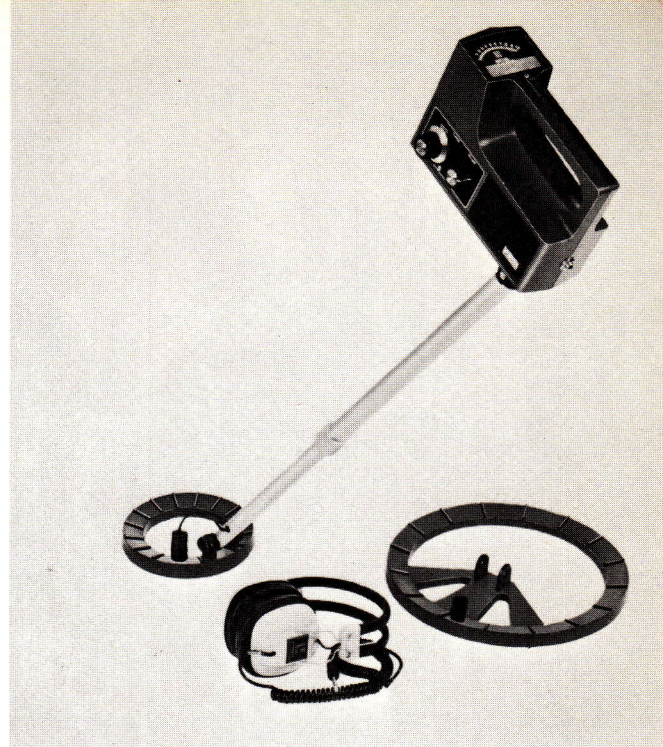
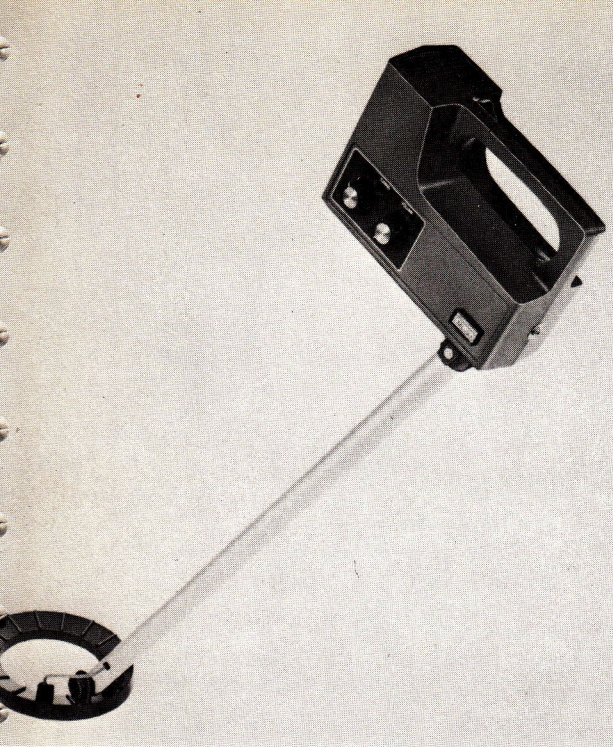




## ***"Mustang" and "Treasure Hawk"***

My first detector was one of these (earlier model) Mustangs developed by Jetco, Inc., of El Paso, Texas, shown above at the left. While not as sophisticated as some of the more expensive models, it gave me a lot of pleasure and started me off on a brand-new and exciting hobby. At the right is shown the Jetco Treasure Hawk which has a needle indicator, controls for sensitivity, sound volume, and battery checking. Even the inexpensive metal detectors will give a measure of success for the young coin shooter, and as his skill increases, he may graduate to a better instrument for even greater success. Invest in the best model that you can right from the start. One added bonus with the Jetco line of detectors is that you also are supplied with a guide to over one hundred treasure sites and many tips about using your new instrument. See page 47 for more information on books dealing with this fascinating subject of hidden treasure.

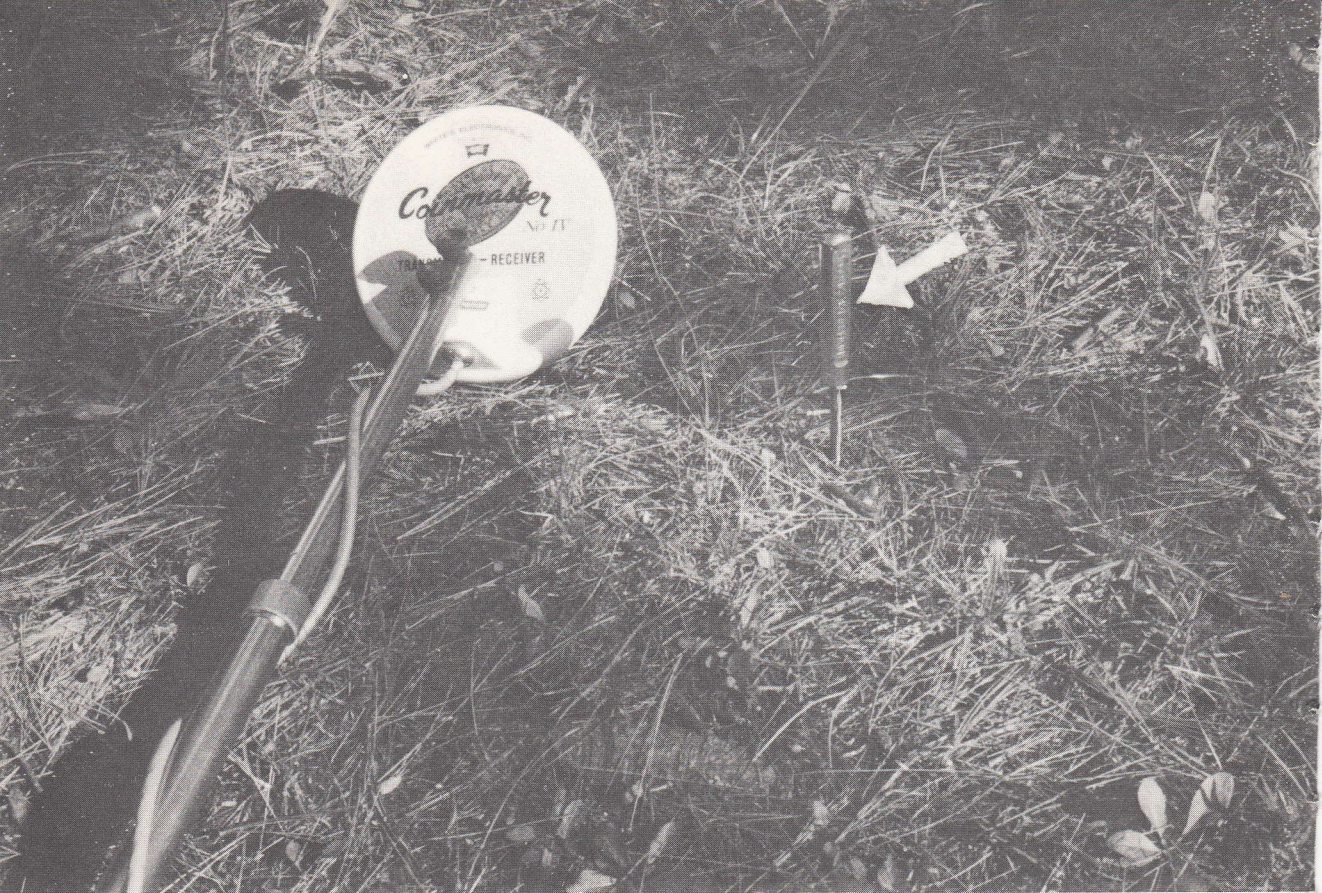




## ***Ferret Fun Finders***

Lowrance Electronics, Inc., of Tulsa, Oklahoma, makers of Fish Lo-K-Tor fish finders and other electronic instruments for boaters and fishermen, also makes a line of Ferret metal detectors. There are three models, the 300, 500, and the 500+. Shown above are the most simple model (left), the Ferret 300, and (right) the 500D, the most sophisticated model with two coils and a headset for better detection of faint sounds. These instruments are well engineered and lightweight. Most detectors average about two-and-one-half pounds and these are lighter than many similar models. The Model 300 weighs just two pounds. The shafts of the better models adjust from eighteen to forty-two inches, which makes the instrument convenient for both young folks and adults. Most of the better detectors have adjustable shafts for better ease in searching in small closets, under porches, and in other areas where there is limited room to work.

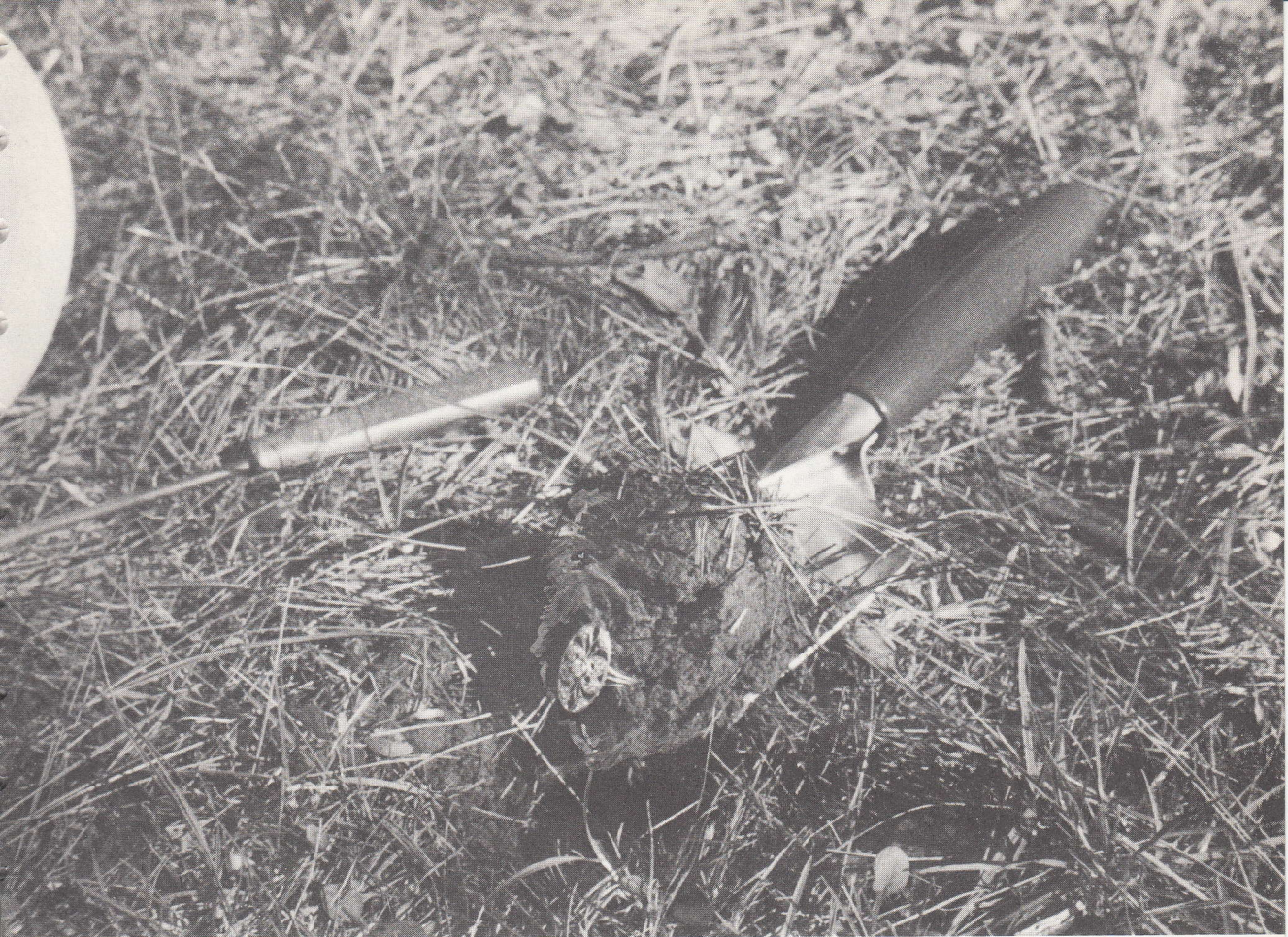




## ***Tips for "Sweeping"***

Metal detectors are simple to use, and as you use them, you will pick up a lot of tricks. The main tip is patience! Move across the area slowly, sweeping the head of the detector slowly from one side to another, keeping the head as close to (or on) the surface as possible. Move ahead slowly so that each sweep overlaps the one before it. If you move too fast, a faint beep may not be heard. If you think you heard a signal, go back over the ground slowly until you are sure. Once you have located the signal, move the head back and forth until the center of the disk is over the loudest signal. Then thrust your ice pick or screwdriver down where the center of the sound was, as shown by arrow in the photo above. Probe until the hard object is located, and then remove as small a plug of sod and soil as possible to the indicated depth. If you have calculated correctly, you can remove the plug and find the "target" on the bottom. The photo on the opposite page (top) shows a ring at the bottom of a plug. The lower photo shows an old revolver at the bottom of a shovel full of earth. After removing the find, replace the sod plug or spadeful of earth and smooth it over as you found it. Some careful coin shooters sprinkle grass seed over the replaced area if it's barren.









## ***There for the Finding!***

If anyone doubts that there is plenty of "treasure" waiting to be found, the next dozen pages will convince you that there is. Some of this was found with various types of metal detectors, some by knowing where to look and some by luck alone. Even the least expensive metal detector, costing less than a good radio, or one put together from a kit can turn your vacation or weekend trip into a real adventure. Above is a collection of hidden treasure found by one man using a White's detector over a few weeks, including coins, watches, rings, and many other items. On the opposite page is a real find, a long-buried Wells Fargo strongbox filled with what may well be loot from a Dalton Gang robbery. This was found with a Garrett dual-coil detector during the summer of 1974, at a site in Oklahoma. Old diaries and newspaper clippings help pinpoint where such hidden treasure just might be waiting to be found.









## ***You Never Know What's Below***

This hobby—and sometimes full-time business—of treasure hunting is full of surprises. For example, just looking over the photo above, the results of a few months searching by two New Jersey treasure hunters, you can see thousands of coins, old spoons, dozens of keys, horseshoes, metal toys and rings. These lucky and experienced hunters have found three diamond rings and many rare and valuable coins. On the opposite page (top) are shown two old swords found by a construction worker from Ohio during excavation for a building. Many a hidden treasure is found without the help of a metal detector, as you can see. The lower photo shows a find made by a gentleman from Missouri near an abandoned Civil War barracks. This unusual dagger was later identified as a Damascus assassin's weapon, usually carried hidden in the assassin's sleeve ready for use. One New York treasure hunter found a whole barrel of Indian-head pennies and Liberty V nickels. Their dates ranged from 1800 to 1912. An iron pipe reached from the barrel to just above the ground, and some old-timer dropped his pennies and nickels down the pipe into the barrel. No one knows who he was or what happened to him and why he never dug up his secret hoard.









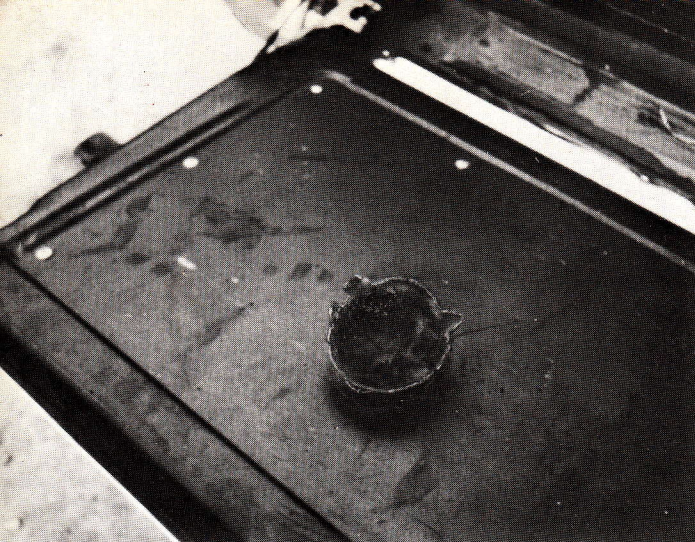
## ***Finds Cover Many Decades***

The most exciting history is not to be found in books but in backyards, beaches, and almost anywhere in this great land just under the surface. Bits and pieces from past centuries or as new as yesterday can be found if you are persistent and, of course, lucky. The photo above shows how a bit of history was found by an Oklahoma man on a visit to a beach: an encrusted flintlock pistol from a couple of centuries ago. When X-rayed, it was found to be in the cocked position and loaded with four balls ready to fire. The opposite page (top) shows historic items found in New Mexico. Note the double-barreled pistol, coffee grinder, ax head, and harness buckles. The lower photo shows old padlocks, tools, ladles, cannonballs, keys, and a telegrapher's "bug" or high-speed sending "key." Each one of these many items could tell quite a story: who owned them and when, how they got to where they were found, and what was happening at that time. The next few pages will give you some ideas of where you might look to find your own bits of history.









## ***Town Histories Help***

Often clues to where hidden treasure of all kinds might be found can be discovered in town histories. This past summer I came across several mentions of a place called "Tory Hole" in the history of Claremont, New Hampshire (my hometown), published in 1895. This spot, actually a tiny steep-sided ravine, was used by the Tories (British sympathizers) and British spies during the Revolutionary War for secret meetings. On a subsequent trip home I was taken there by my sister and William Bateman, an old friend and president of the Claremont Historical Society. With the permission of the present owner we braved rain, poison ivy, and wet feet to see what we could find. In spite of the changes in nearly two hundred years from soil erosion and weather, I soon got a beep from my headphones and probed to see what it could be. At first I thought it was a cannonball. But after digging it out from under a buried root, I found it to be even more exciting, a rust and root-encrusted cast-iron ladle for pouring molten lead into molds for making flintlock musket and pistol bullets. The photo above left shows the ladle on my station wagon tailgate after I found it. The photo at the right shows it after scraping and cleaning, and on the opposite page just after I found it to show its size in my hand. It is now in the society's museum. It's a fine and interesting link with the days when Tories used the ravine for their secret meetings. Note that the handle had rusted or broken off over the two centuries.









## ***FBI Finds Buried Treasure***

Even the special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have their successful treasure hunts. In the fall of 1945 two robbers held up two bank messengers in Hollywood, California, and escaped with \$111,300 in currency. Intensive investigation by the FBI led to the usual identification of the two criminals and their arrest and conviction. After their conviction one of the robbers revealed where a small part of the loot was buried—in a milk can behind a dormitory of the University of California at Los Angeles. This turned out to consist of \$5,100 in one-dollar bills. The location of the bulk of the treasure was not revealed, but further investigation by the FBI's "treasure" hunters located it in the cemetery of the Sawtelle Veterans Facility, about a half mile from where the milk can was found. The photo above shows special agents starting to dig in the cemetery for the huge sum of missing money. The top photo (opposite page) shows metal trash can containing a gunnysack and a duffel bag, dug up behind a headstone. The lower photo shows rolls of bills taken from the two bags, totaling \$100,000. Thanks to the intensive and skilled work of the FBI, almost all of the stolen bank money was recovered, even when buried below the surface of a cemetery.









## Unexpected "Treasure"

Frequently unusual treasure is discovered just under the surface where least expected. During a recent visit to St. Thomas in the United States' Virgin Islands, we learned of just such a find. While digging test holes for the foundation of a new condominium at Hull Bay, surveyors found a human skeleton under the roots of a huge tree. Soon another was discovered, and there may be many more in this historic Indian burial ground. The skeletons were estimated to be as much as 1,000 years old, and it is thought that there may be as many as a hundred in all. The author and his wife visited the exciting site to take photographs of these priceless historic "treasures." Above is shown a general view of the dig on the sandy shores of Hull Bay. The top photo, opposite, shows the female skeleton after removal, exactly as found, and a partially uncovered male skeleton. It is believed that she was a human sacrifice, possible after the death of her husband. The lower photo shows archaeologists sifting sand from excavations for any artifacts buried with bodies. Almost nothing at all was found to indicate tribe, tools, equipment, or customs of these ancient island inhabitants. Who knows where similar startling treasures may be waiting to be found?









## ***Hidden Treasure Can Be Anywhere***

In fact, there may be treasure right under your feet! Almost any street corner, bus stop, park, lawn, or sidewalk can contain buried coins, rings, or other small valuables. The author has located and dug up coins thirty years old and older right in his own backyard, buried three and four inches under the sod. The top photos show two fine spots to "coin shoot" with a detector, street corners and grassy slopes near public buildings. On the opposite page is shown two treasure hunters "sweeping" for buried treasure in a public park. When using your detector in such areas, be sure to have permission from the local parks department, the mayor's office, or others able to give such permission, and be equally sure that you replace the sod and earth you removed exactly as you found it. Local historic societies are always delighted to receive anything of historical interest or value from your hunts.









## ***Ruins Can Be Rewarding***

Old ruins of an inn or tavern or even a private home can hold many small treasures. Some may be hinges, belt buckles, hand-forged nails, iron tools, brass cartridge cases, etc. There might even be coins or tin boxes of personal treasures of many kinds. Be sure to check not only the foundation areas and all around the ruins but inside and under the old chimney as well. The author shows spots to look over, inside the fireplace opening and under or close to the hearth, particularly if it is broken. The top photo shows a detector being used inside a fireplace opening and (opposite, top) near and under where the hearthstone used to be. The center photo (opposite) shows what might be found, a mason jar full of old pennies, and silver half dollars, and the even more rare silver dollars. The lower photo shows a shoulder strap that the author attached to his detector. This proves to be a convenient way to carry the detector and to take the weight of "sweeping" from the elbow and wrist. Also, when examining finds you do not have to look for a safe place to set down your unit.









## ***Small-fry Haunts Hide Treasure***

One does not have to travel to ghost towns, lost mines, or strange places to look for hidden treasure. As near as your local ball park, playground, or picnic area you can hunt for the lost, misplaced, or hidden coins of your local friends and neighbors or residents of long ago. Above are two "coin shooters" working over playground areas for small treasures, coins, bracelets, earrings, rings, and even watches. The young hunter at right apparently has found another coin to add to his collection. Areas around swings, seesaws, merry-go-rounds, and monkey bars are choice spots for you to hear that exciting beep from your detector, signaling another find. On the opposite page a treasure hunter with a young assistant goes over a target area. Note that ice picks are used by these boys (top and opposite) to probe for what is below. Earphones are a help when there is local noise to distract or confuse you. Small plastic bags are good to keep "finds" in until they can be cleaned later on at home.





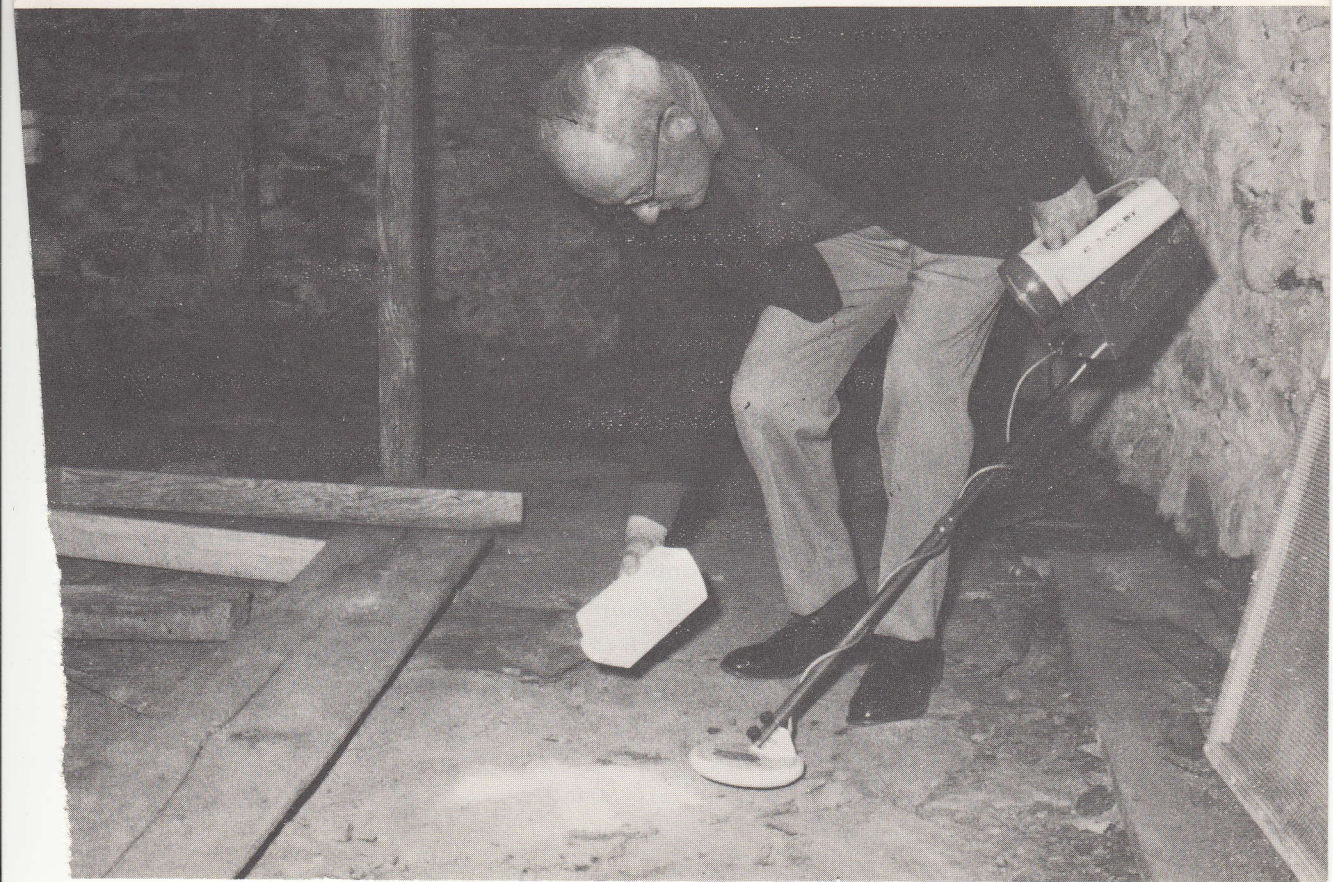




## ***Old Houses Were Banks***

Many an early settler used his home as his bank, hiding valuables in all sorts of places such as behind fireplaces, in door and window frames, under dirt cellar floors, or behind cellar walls. Many great finds have been made in such old homes; many in the thousands of dollars. They range from rare coins to jewelry and from lost property deeds to precious stones and weapons of all kinds. Here my friend Francis Duquette shows a few places to look in and around a two-hundred-year home he had permission to check. Above, he searches around the porch, steps, and foundation. On the opposite page (top to bottom) he checks along the old fieldstone cellar wall and marks with talcum powder (for later study) a stone that gave off a beep during his search of the centuries-old cellar. One searcher, checking an old house being torn down in the Boston area, found a single coin worth about \$5,000. Other coins up to nearly 700 years old have been found concealed in similar places. Go slowly, listen carefully, and watch that needle, but be sure you have permission to be on or in the property.









## ***Old Buildings—New Thrills***

The older and more dilapidated a building may be, the better chances of finding a hidden hoard—usually but not always. One treasure hunter who owned a very old home got a loud beep from the ceiling of his living room. He finally decided to open the ceiling and find what it was. After a lot of work and mess (and a ruined ceiling) he discovered that the beep had been caused by his wife's tin dustpan on the floor of a closet upstairs. Think and investigate before doing any drastic inside "digging!" The above photo shows a hunter checking around a tumbledown building, and opposite, the author shows where to look on the outside of an old cabin. Some trappers hollowed out a wall log and hid gold dust nuggets or coins they had received for their furs inside. Others hid their bankrolls under the eaves or under roof shingles for safekeeping. Check every inch of old buildings, for many a former owner had lots of imagination and plenty of ingenuity when it came to selecting a "bank" in his home.









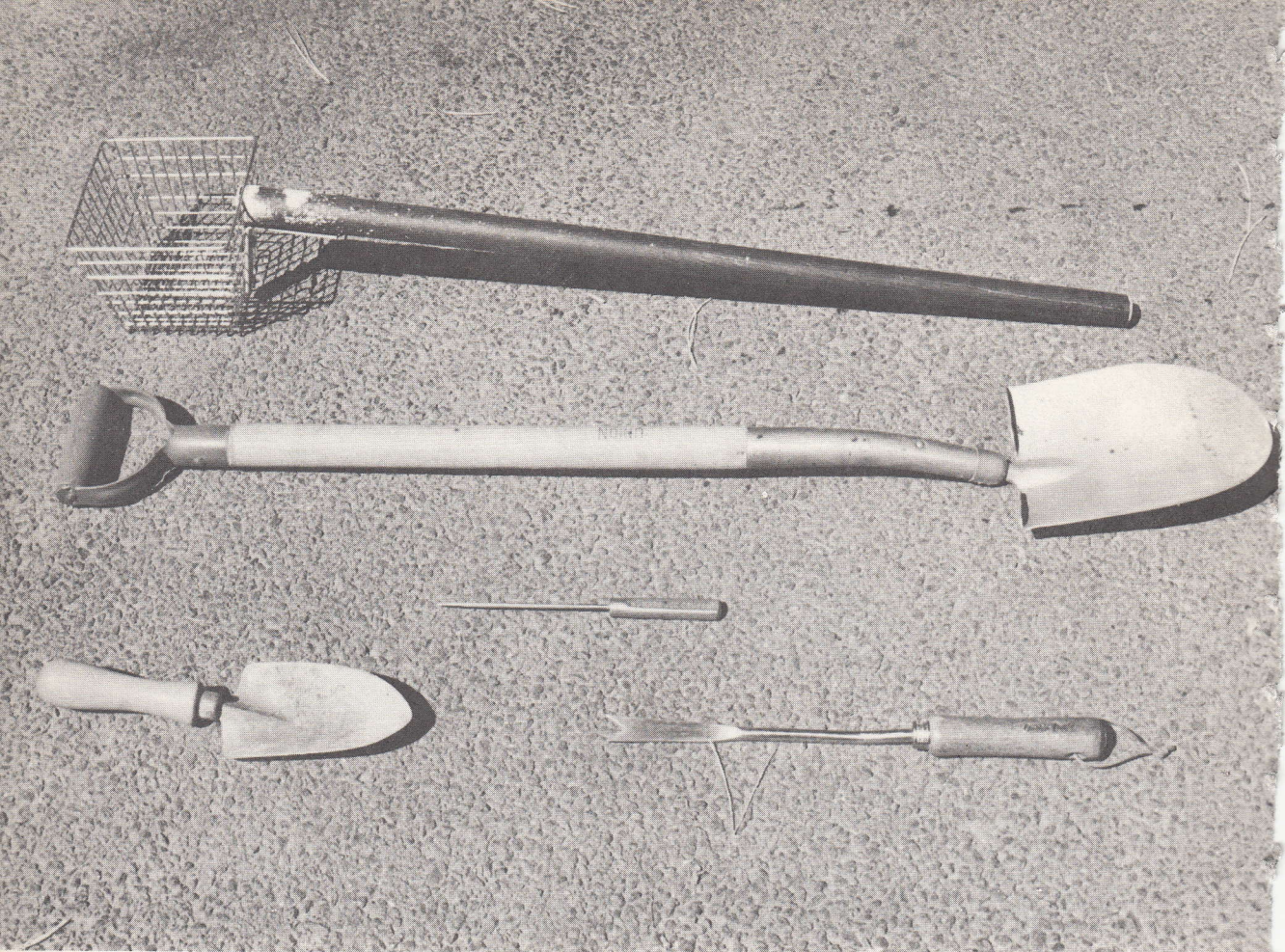
## ***Cellar Hole Searchers***

One of the most popular places for treasure hunters to look is in and around cellar holes on back roads. Check old local maps for locations of these roads and then look carefully for signs of long lost cellar holes close by as you ride along. Better wear old clothes, and look out for poison ivy, hornets' nests, and other assorted small hazards of the trade. Above we see two cellar hole searchers with a small cache of old coins. On the opposite page are two other photos of their lucky find. The author once got a loud beep near such an old hole and started to dig. The deeper he dug, the fainter the beep, which just wasn't the way it should have been. He finally discovered that he had been digging down inside a buried rusty barrel hoop just under the sod. Not all sweat and digging leads to riches, but that is half the fun of this exciting hobby! In the lower photo (opposite) notice three partially buried coins just under the small root.









## ***Tools of the Treasure Hunter***

Those who use metal detectors to look for hidden treasure, whether in a playground, park, ghost town, or the sands of a beach, generally require a few tools to help retrieve anything they locate. Above is what I carry in my station wagon when off on a treasure hunt. There are several varieties of these tools, many of them designed and made by those who use them. The top gadget is for sifting beach sand to retrieve the coins after they have been located. It is merely a stout wire basket attached securely to the end of a wooden handle. With it you can scoop down two or three inches in soft sand and then sift out whatever is in the basket that made your detector beep. Below this is a small shovel for digging deeper. A surplus army trenching shovel is a fine tool as the blade can be adjusted for angle. Below this, left to right, is a small trowel, an old ice pick and a weed puller, each handy for different work. Many hunters carry a long slender screwdriver as well for coins. After a little experience you will be able to probe with the ice pick and tell without seeing what is below the sod. Always make as small a hole as possible, and replace dirt and sod as they were.





## ***Off and Running!***

Besides using metal detectors for serious or hobby coin shooting, you can use them for some pretty exciting social events as well known as "treasure hunts." These are arranged by various clubs and open to all who come. All kinds of metal detectors are used, including homemade models. The photo above shows start of a typical preplanned treasure hunt with nearly fifty "hunters" starting to search the course for preplanted targets. These may be real pennies, colored metal disks, big washers, painted pennies, genuine old coins, and even small silver bars. There is generally a time limit set on the hunt with prizes for those who find the most targets, or certain targets, or special metal prizes buried in waterproof bags or sealed packages. As many as 125 people have entered such events and located almost all of the 15,000 coins and targets buried in the area. The hunt may last all day or for, say, three hours, with an intermission for a children's hunt for their own special prizes. Often there are as many as seventy-five prizes and gifts for the winners. A great way to meet others interested in this rapidly growing outdoor as well as indoor hobby where the results can be pretty exciting.



# ***Metal Detector Manufacturers***

A.Z.A. Scientific, Inc.  
105 South Ann Arbor St.  
Box 158, Saline, Mich.  
48176

Detectron  
P.O. Box 281  
San Gabriel, Calif.  
91778

D-Tex Electronics  
P.O. Box 246  
Garland, Texas  
75041

Fisher Research Laboratory  
1890 Embarcadero Rd.  
Palo Alto, Calif.  
94303

Gardiner Electronics Co.  
4729 North Seventh Avenue  
Phoenix, Ariz.  
85013

Garrett Electronics  
2814 National Drive  
Garland, Texas  
75041

The Goldak Co., Inc.  
1101-A Air Way  
Glendale, Calif.  
91201

Heath Company  
Benton Harbor, Mich.  
49022

Jetco, Inc.  
1133 Barranca Dr.  
El Paso, Texas  
79935

Lowrance Electronics  
12000 E. Skelly Dr.  
Tulsa, Okla.  
74128

Metrotech Underground Explorations  
Box 793  
Menlo Park, Calif.  
94025

Ray Jefferson  
Main and Cotton Streets  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
19127

Rayscope Company  
P.O. Box 715  
North Hollywood, Calif.  
91603

Relco Industries  
P.O. Box 10839  
Houston, Texas  
77018

Solidtronics  
Highway 9  
Tennent, N.J.  
07763

White's Electronics, Inc.  
1011 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
Sweet Home, Ore.  
97386

Write to these manufacturers for catalogues or information on their products. My apologies for any names and addresses I may have overlooked.



# Reading You Will Enjoy

There are many fine and exciting books on hidden, buried, and sunken treasure. Many give hundreds of lost treasure locations to whet your enthusiasm for going out to find them. Some of my favorites are now out of print, but here are the titles of five I'm sure you will enjoy. Check with your local bookstore or library.

*Treasure Map Atlas*, by Thomas P. Perry, Specialty Products, 2233 South 22nd Street, LaCrosse, Wis. 54601

*Lost Treasures and How to Find Them*, by Emile C. Schurmacher, Coronet Communications, Inc., 315 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10010

*A Treasure Guide*, by Robert Bell, Jetco Electronics Industries, Inc., Publishing Division, P.O. Box 132, Huntsville, Texas 77340

*Buried Treasure Guide*, by Eric Norman, Award Books, P.O. Box 2080, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017

*Introduction to Treasure Hunting*, by Alan Smith, Stackpole Books, Cameron and Kelker Streets, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

The catalogue of White's Electronics Inc., 1011 Pleasant Valley Rd., Sweet Home, Ore. 97386, lists over one hundred books dealing with treasure hunting, ghost towns, lost mines, prospecting, etc. Ask also to be put on their mailing list for their bimonthly publication *Discover*, which reports finds made by owners of their detectors. Look in *Books in Print* at your local library under "buried treasure," or ask your librarian to help you find other books on the subject.

Publishers of treasure hunting periodicals include: *The Association*, P.O. Box 412, Oscoda, Mich. 48750; *The Gold Bug*, P.O. Box 588, Alamo, Calif. 94507; *National Treasure Hunters League*, Box 53, Mesquite, Texas 75149; *The Treasure Hunter*, P.O. Box 188, Midway City, Calif. 92655; *Treasure News*, P.O. Box 614, Torrance, Calif. 90508; *True Treasure and Treasure World*, P.O. Drawer L, Conroe, Texas 77301; *Western Treasures*, P.O. Box 845, Reseda, Calif. 91335; and *Northwest Treasure News*, Box 5075, Spokane, Wash. 99205.





Local law enforcement officers will appreciate the offer of your skill and detector when searching for evidence. This Dallas, Texas, officer uses a Garrett detector to search a crime scene for bits of evidence. As a public service you can help your local police in their battle against crime.



## ***Courtesy Rules and Safety Tips***

Never trespass on private lands without permission from the owner.

Never dig up the ground without replacing dirt and sod as you found it.

Never dig a larger hole than required to determine what is buried or to get it.

Never break into any building that is obviously not abandoned or you may be criminally liable.

If asked to leave any property, do so at once without argument or you may also be subject to arrest for trespass.

Check with the attorney general's office of any state you plan to visit for treasure hunting for regulations covering such activities.

If you discover historic relics, particularly those of Indian origin, disturb as little as possible and notify local authorities, or you may be liable under the Federal Antiquities Act (Public Law No. 209). Such violation, if on lands controlled or owned by the government of the United States, could result in a stiff fine, or imprisonment, or both.

If you are coin shooting on a popular beach, keep any metal trash you may find and deposit it in a trash basket as a public service.

If you enter upon private lands with permission, observe any directions of the owner as to gates, entering buildings, crossing gardens, etc.

Use extreme caution when entering mine shafts, caves, old buildings, or remote areas, especially if alone. Let someone know where you will be and when you plan to return, and stick to that route and schedule.

Beware of rotten floors, broken timbers, crumbling walls and roofs, and such things as hornets, spiders, snakes, and other dangerous residents of ghost towns and abandoned structures. Do as little damage as possible.

Offer your skill and detector to the local law enforcement department for use in locating evidence (abandoned firearms, cartridge cases, etc.).

Be a credit to the fraternity of treasure hunters so we may all continue to enjoy this exciting hobby.  
Good hunting!

*The Author*













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